



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
July 1, 2014

To: FWP Region 3 EA Standard Distribution List
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Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Revised Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed development modifications of the Logan Fishing Access Site (FAS) along the Gallatin River in the town of Logan, Montana.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks invites you to comment on the attached modified proposal. If requested, FWP will schedule and conduct a public meeting on this proposed project. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on August 1, 2014. Comments should be sent to the following:

Logan Fishing Access Site Proposed Development
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 3
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
Or emailed to: rheagney@mt.gov

Sincerely,

Sam Sheppard
Acting Region Three Supervisor

*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 3 - Bozeman*

AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Logan Fishing Access Site:

Revised Proposed Site Development and Land Addition

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Logan Fishing Access Site (FAS): Revised Proposed Site Development and Property Addition

Project Location: Logan FAS is located within the town of Logan, Montana along the Gallatin River, one half mile north of Interstate 90 and seven miles east of Three Forks in Gallatin County in Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 2 East.

Figure 1. Site Location Map

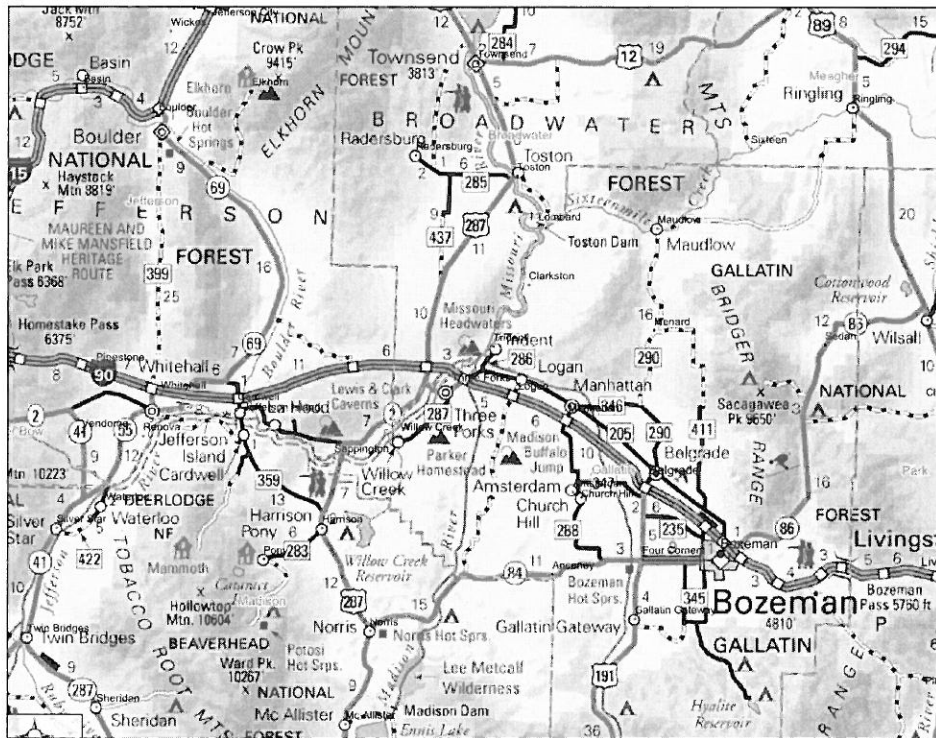


Figure 2. Logan FAS General Location

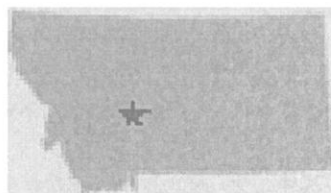
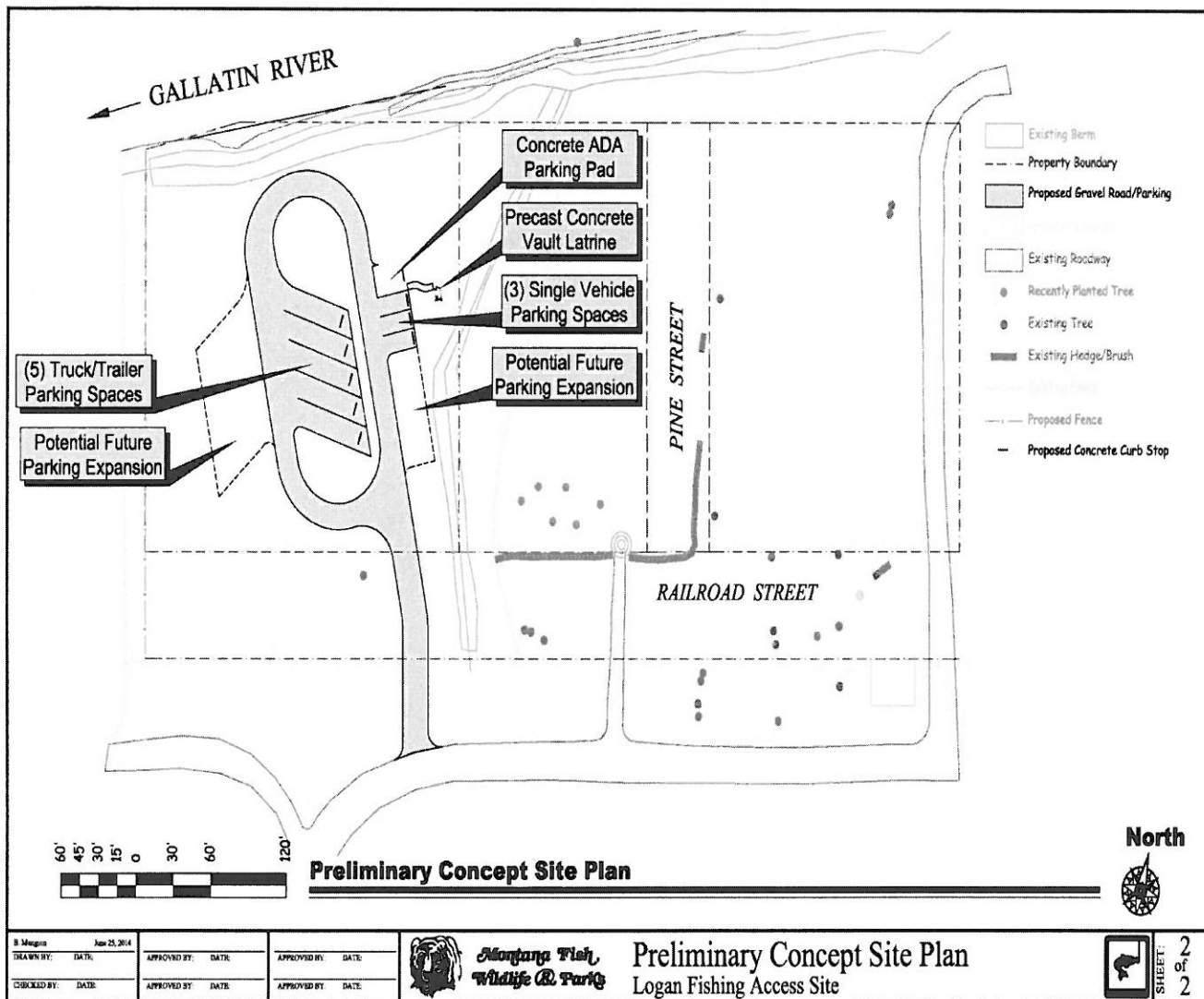


Figure 3. Preliminary Concept Site Plan for Logan FAS



Proposed Action:

FWP proposes to revise the site development plan for the Logan Fishing Access Site (FAS) by removing from consideration the originally proposed construction of a concrete boat ramp. Additionally, FWP is proposing to accept the donation of an additional 1-acre parcel that would be added to the existing 1.5-acre site.

In February 2011, FWP released a site development plan and accompanying environmental assessment for the Logan FAS. One component of the plan called for construction of a concrete boat ramp that would cross the flood-control berm and allow boat-trailer access to the Gallatin River. The original draft environmental assessment can be located at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmentalAssessments/developmentImprovementsAndEnhancements/pn_0252.html.

However, after reviewing additional flood plain issues and site-design requirements, FWP has determined that the proposed concrete boat ramp could have the potential to affect the dike's suitability for flood mitigation. Based on this assessment, FWP is withdrawing its original proposal for construction of the boat ramp. Instead, the public will have access to the river by walking up and over the approximately 5-foot-high berm. Additionally, floaters may find it feasible to carry boats (canoes, kayaks or light-weight rafts) over the berm for river put-in or take-out. However, no means will be provided for trailered-boat access over the berm. As under the original development proposal, the site will be day-use only and FWP will develop a parking area and install a latrine.

The proposed one-acre addition to the site adjoins FWP's existing 1.5-acre ownership acquired by donation in December 2010. The acre would be donated to FWP by the American Legion (AL), which received it by donation at the same time FWP acquired its Logan site. The AL property adjoins the eastern boundary of the Logan FAS, and lies between the current FWP land and the Gallatin County park property (the Gallatin County property is labeled City of Logan on the attached air photo). This acquisition will preclude potential adverse development of the AL property, provide additional open space and increase access to the Gallatin River. It also provides space for any potential future FWP site development needs.

FWP may develop a suitable boat launching alternative in the future that would provide for river access by trailered boats without detrimental impacts to the flood control dike. Any such future boat launching facility will be subject to under a separate environmental assessment, with opportunity for public review and comment.

History:

In December 2010, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) accepted the donation of 1.5 acres of land along the Gallatin River within the town of Logan for the purpose of establishing a fishing access site (FAS) and providing public access to this stretch of the Gallatin River.

FWP initially competed and finalized an Environmental Assessment for Site Development Plan with a Decision Notice on May 16, 2011. The original proposal included a gravel access road, parking area to accommodate ten vehicles, a singlewide concrete boat ramp, a vault latrine, regulatory and informational signs, and boundary fencing. The 2011 Decision Notice can be located at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/decisionNotices/pn_0514.html.

Scope of the FWP Environmental Assessment:

The scope of this environmental assessment by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is to analyze the withdrawal of the previously planned boat ramp construction, described in the 2011 EA and their potential impacts at the Logan FAS, and to analyze any consequences of FWP acquiring the additional one-acre parcel. This environmental assessment is not intended to analyze previously discussed impacts described in the original 2011 EA.

Environmental Assessment narrative:

The proposed revision of the Logan FAS Site Development Plan EA recognizes and reconfirms the original findings and assumptions expressed in the 2011 EA, with the exception of the installation of a concrete boat ramp, which has been removed from consideration.

Description alternatives:**Alternative A: No Action**

If no actions were taken the property would not be developed. This proposed action would provide only public walk-in access to this stretch of the Gallatin River.

FWP would not acquire the American Legion parcel adjacent to the existing FAS. The Legion may decide to keep the property or sell it to another party. If it sold to another party, it may be developed in some way in the future.

Alternative B: Revised Proposed Action

FWP proposes to withdraw from consideration at this time the construction of a boat ramp at this site and proceed with the construction of an access road, parking area to accommodate ten vehicles and the installation of a concrete vault latrine. This proposed action would provide usable public access to this stretch of the Gallatin River.

Also as part of this action, FWP would acquire the 1 acre parcel owned by the American Legion to provide additional open space adjacent to the existing FAS property.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment of the amended proposed action.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		See below
5. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		

4: One benefit of acquiring the American Legion property would be the consistent application of weed control measures by FWP and Gallatin County. Currently there are Knapweed and Thistle on the Legion's property.

Table 2. Potential impact on human environment of the amended proposed action.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Noise and/or electrical effects				X		
2. Land use				X		See below
3. Risk and/or health hazards				X		
4. Community impact				X	Yes	See below
5. Public services/taxes/utilities				X		
6. Potential revenue and/or project maintenance costs				X		
7. Aesthetics and recreation				X	Yes, positive	See below
8. Cultural and historic resources				X		
9. Evaluation of significance				X		
10. Generate public controversy				X		

2. The property is currently a fallow pasture, occasionally used for horse grazing, and is not currently used for commercial purposes. In addition, no primitive parking or launching facilities are located on the property. The proposed development would not alter or interfere with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of the property

Acquisition of the American Legion property will provide additional open space and linear access to the Gallatin River. This property would remain in its current condition with no further development at this time.

4. The acquisition of the American Legion property would assure additional public lands.

The proposed project may improve tourism in the area by increasing the number of visitors to the town of Logan, which would benefit local service businesses. FWP continues to pay property taxes on land it acquires, so the proposed addition of one acre to the site will not change local property tax amounts.

Establishing public access at Logan FAS would likely increase vehicle trips per day in and out of Logan, which may slightly increase traffic hazards.

7. The FAS would be operated for day use only, with no camping allowed, and development would include a gravel access road, parking area, concrete vault latrine, new boundary fencing, and signs. If acquired the American Legion property would also provide additional public land and open space between the FAS facilities and nearby residences.

Some anglers may be slightly inconvenienced by the lack of a boat ramp at the FAS. However, there are other boat ramps open to the public at other FAS upstream and downstream from the Logan FAS.

Though a concrete boat ramp would provide needed boat access across the berm and to the river, analysis indicates that it could have detrimental effects on the existing flood control dike. A suitable boat launching alternative may be phased in at a later time that allows river access that limits negative use impacts to the flood control dike.

The proposed development of Logan FAS would allow for public use for fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing, improving recreational opportunities along the popular Gallatin River and obtaining public access to the lower Gallatin River, which has been a high priority for FWP.

PART III. EVALUATION

Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency: FWP would continue to manage the FAS and proposed addition to the FAS under current applicable laws and policies.

Need for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement:

The proposed elimination of the development of a boat ramp at Logan FAS and the proposed acquisition of the American Legion parcel would not positively or negatively impact the physical or human environments significantly based on the analysis completed by FWP. Thus, the preparation of an EIS is not warranted and the completion of this EA is the appropriate level of review.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public involvement:

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on the Amended Logan FAS Site Development Plan:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: the *Three Forks Herald*, the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, and the *Helena Independent Record*
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.
- Direct notice will be given to adjacent landowners.
- Draft EA's will be available at the FWP Region 3 Headquarters in Bozeman and the FWP State Headquarters in Helena.
- A news release will be prepared and distributed to a standard list of media outlets interested in FWP Region 3 issues.
- Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project.

2. Duration of comment period.

Comment period will run for 30 days, beginning July 1, 2014. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 1, 2014.

Comments may be:

Emailed to: rheagney@mt.gov

Or Mailed to: Logan Fishing Access Site Revised Proposed Site Development Plan.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 3, Attn: Ray Heagney
1400 S. 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

3. Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Ray Heagney, Region 3 FAS Manager, Fisheries (Bozeman)
Mike Vaughn, Area Fisheries Biologist, Fisheries (Bozeman)
Allan Kuser, State FAS Acquisition and Development Manager (Helena)
Bardell Mangum, Construction Project Coordinator (Helena)
Kevin McDonnell, Construction Project Coordinator (Helena)